

U.S.S.N.: 10/088,288
Kim et al.
Page 17

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification as filed. In particular, support for claim 1 may be found in paragraph "d)" on page 12. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 13 has been amended to correct the typographical error pointed out by the Examiner. Thus, the claims are fully compliant with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, including the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ju Young Lee (*J. Chem. Soc., Perkins Trans. 1*, 1998, 359-365). The rejection is traversed.

The office action notes that the specification provides at page 12 that, "side chain of amino acids represents the side groups which are attached to the chiral carbon of 20 natural amino acids."

Applicants note that the quoted language provides for amino acid side chain groups which are attached to a **chiral carbon** of an amino acid. As is well known in the art carbon atoms bearing two identical groups such as the methylene group of glycine are not chiral. Thus

U.S.S.N.: 10/088,288
Kim et al.
Page 18

the language of claim 1 excludes those compounds in which R^2 is hydrogen (e.g., the amino acid side chain of glycine).


However, in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention. Thus, claim 1, as amended, provides that R^2 is a non-hydrogen side chain of an amino acid. Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of the claimed invention has not changed as a result of the present invention for at least the reasons discussed herein.

Lee fails to disclose or suggest compounds in which R^2 is not hydrogen. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Lee. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over Lee.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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